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Synthesis and characterization of functional nanocontainers for active corrosion protection

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1. Introduction




Direct incorporation of corrosion inhibitors in coating formulations can lead to several problems:

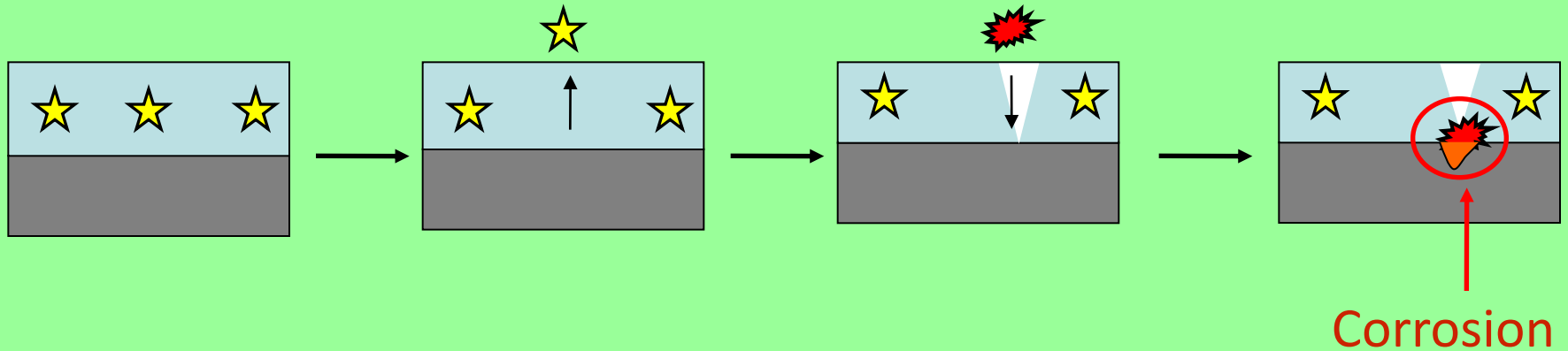
- detrimental interaction** between inhibitors and coating matrix (**technical**)
- constant/spontaneous leaching** of inhibitors into the environment (**environmental and economical**)

Limitation of the coating protective action in time and magnitude

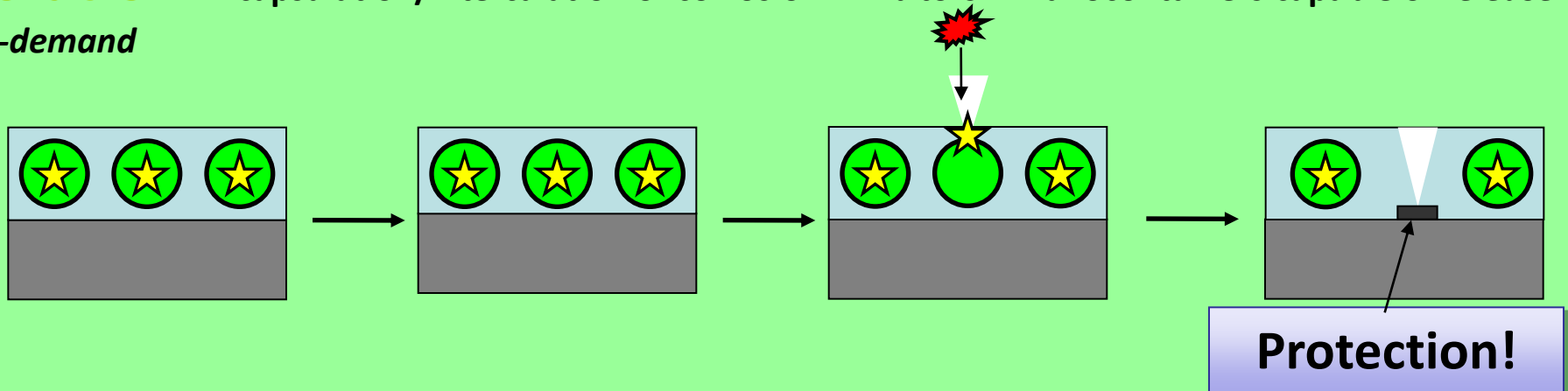
 Nanocontainer
 Corrosion inhibitor

Coating
Metallic substrate

 Aggressive species
 Corrosion products
 Protective film



Solution Encapsulation/intercalation of corrosion inhibitors in nanocontainers capable of *release-on-demand*



Micro/nanocontainer + Corrosion inhibitor \geq Chromates

Inert, hosting structures

Release mechanisms

Active protection

Low toxicity



Types of containers:

-inorganic, organic, hybrid

Release mechanisms:

-mechanical impact

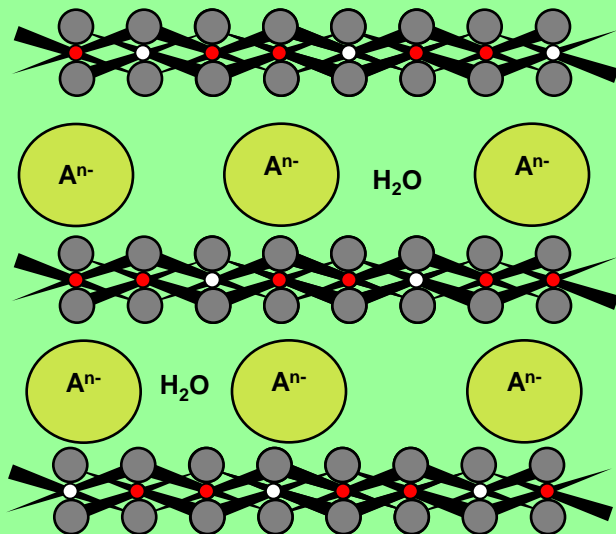
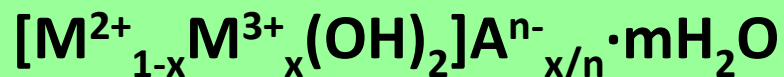
-pH -H₂O

-presence of aggressive species (e.g. chlorides)

Potential advantages related to this strategy:

- improvement of coating integrity
- smaller amounts of inhibitor required
- development of new value-added products
- comply with environmental law regulations

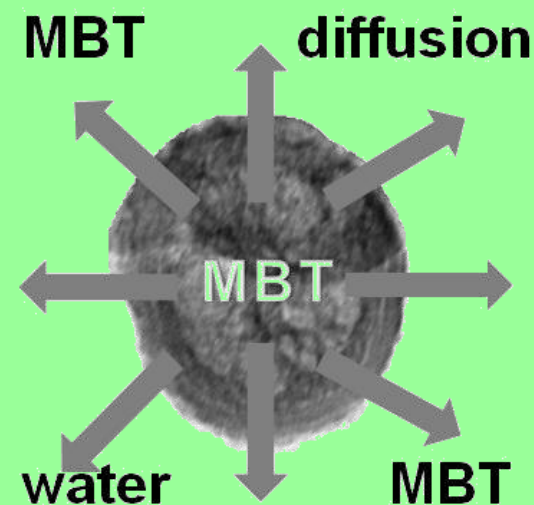
Layered double hydroxides (LDHs)



Applications:

Sorbents, Drug-delivery systems,
Polymer stabilizers, Heterogeneous
catalysis

Silica nanocapsules (SiO₂)



Applications:

Drug-delivery systems
Transport carriers
Nano-reactors

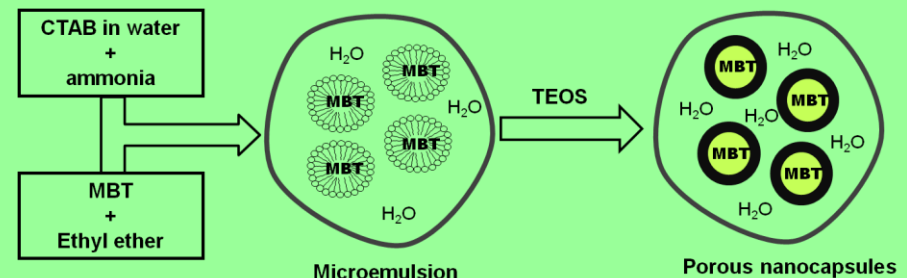
2. Experimental

- **Synthesis of LDHs**

- methodologies applied: ion-exchange, calcination-rehydration
- corrosion inhibitors intercalated: MoO_4^{2-} , VO_3^- , MBT

- **Synthesis of SiO_2**

- oil-in-water microemulsion
- corrosion inhibitor: MBT



- **Structural/morphological characterization**

XRD, SEM, TEM

- **Release studies**

HLPC

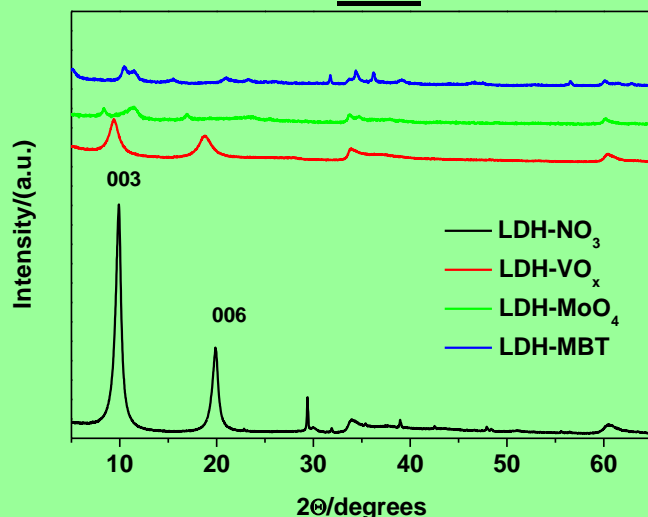
- **Corrosion studies**

EIS

3. Structure and morphology

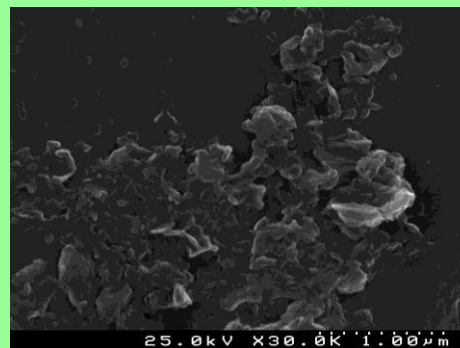
LDHs

XRD

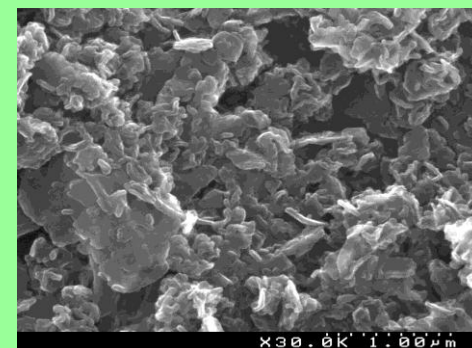


- Peak positions at low angles: information on the gallery height (anion size and orientation)

SEM

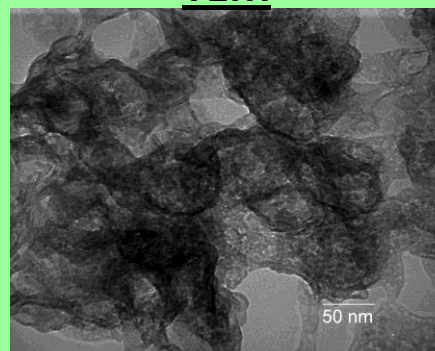


LDH-NO₃



LDH-VO_x

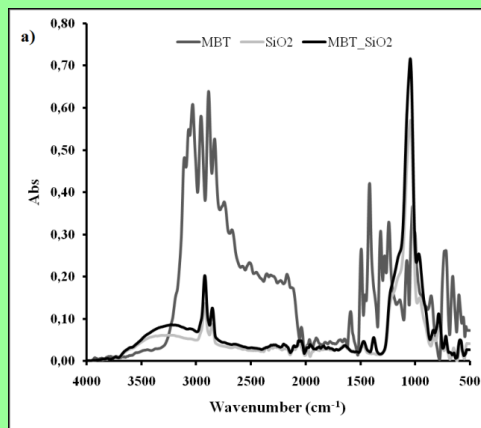
TEM



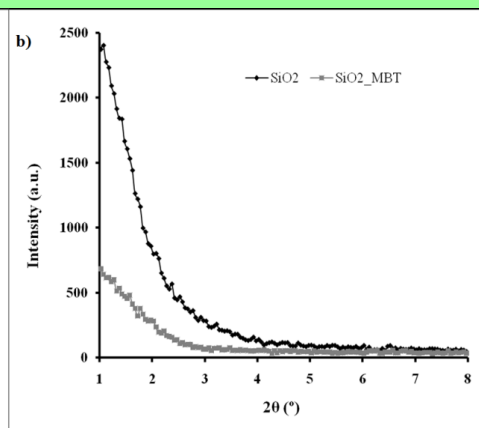
- Plate-like morphology
- LDH particles: 200-400 nm diameter and 20-40 nm height



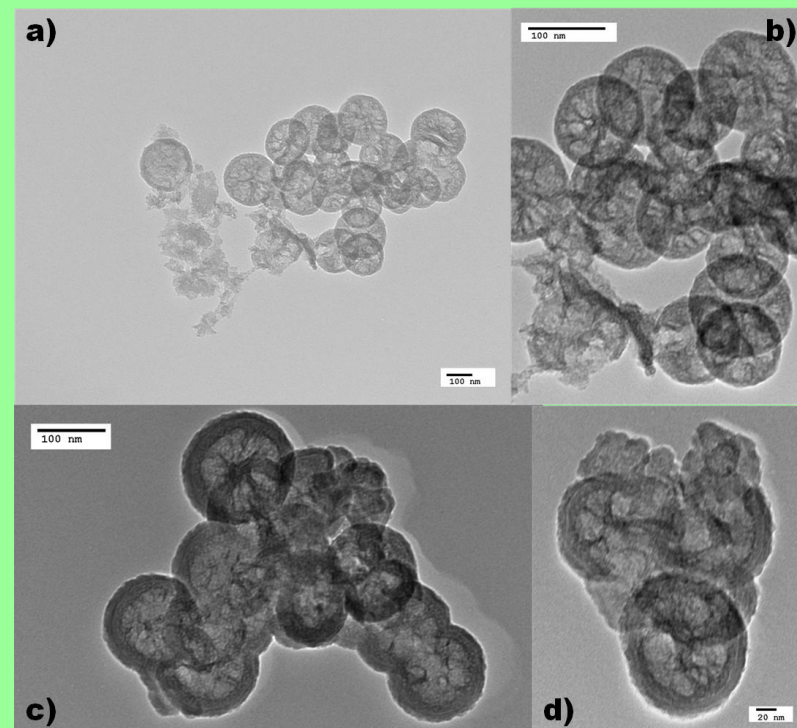
FTIR



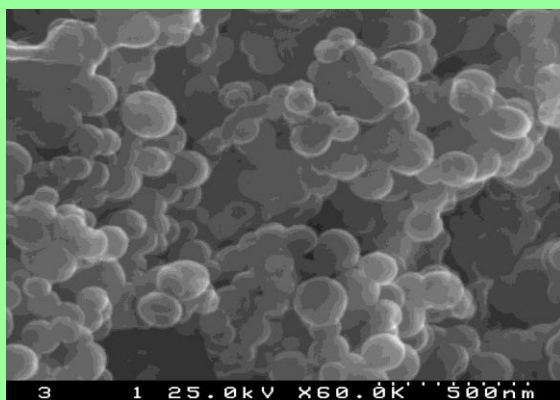
XRD



TEM



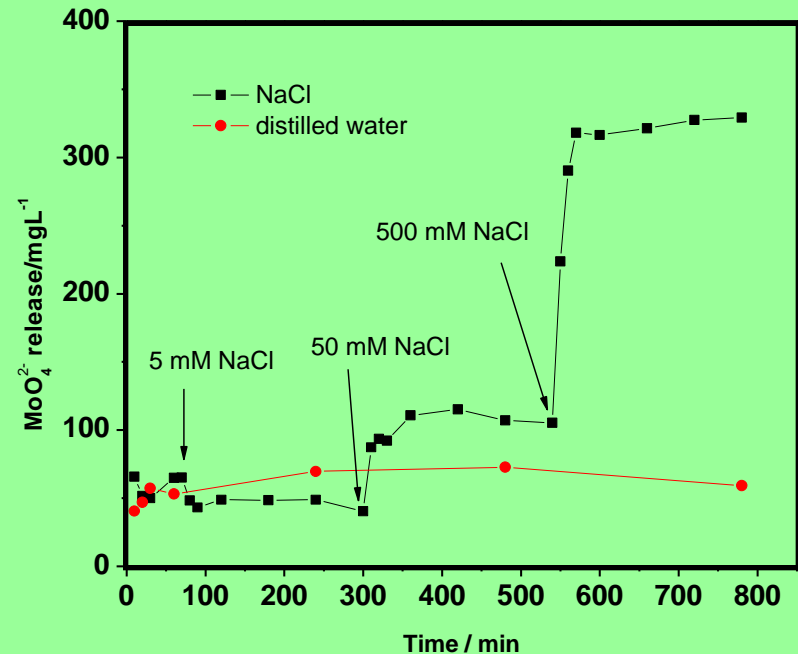
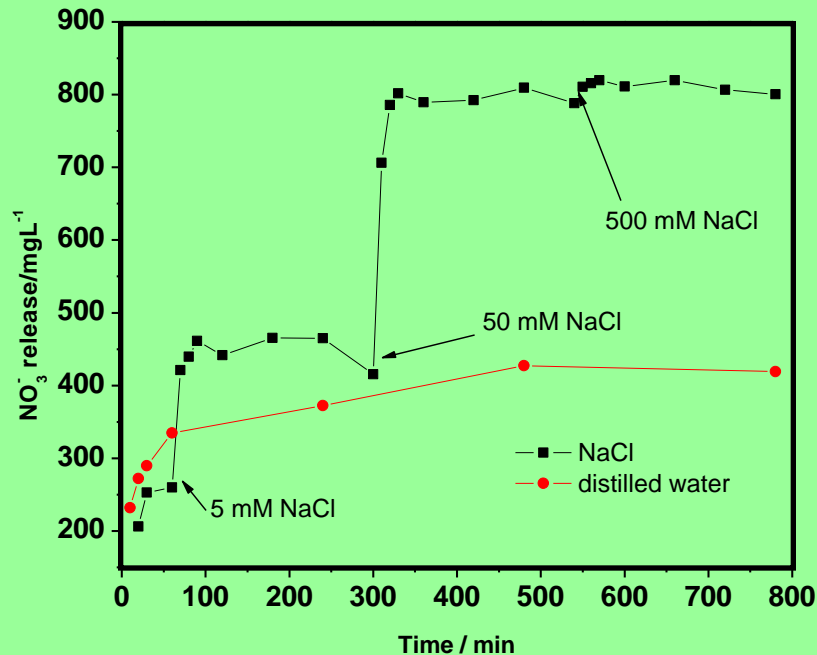
SEM



- Porous, spherical particles
150 nm diameter

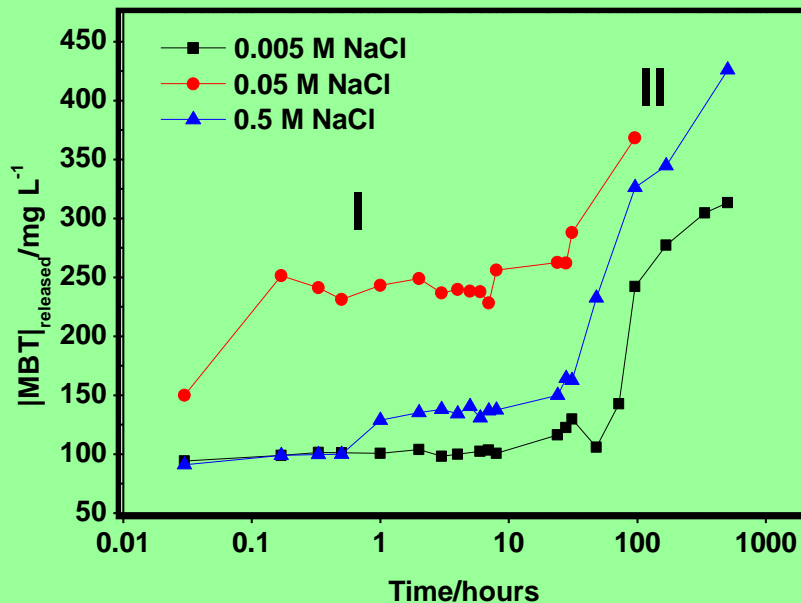
- Different core/shell porosities

4. Release studies-LDHs

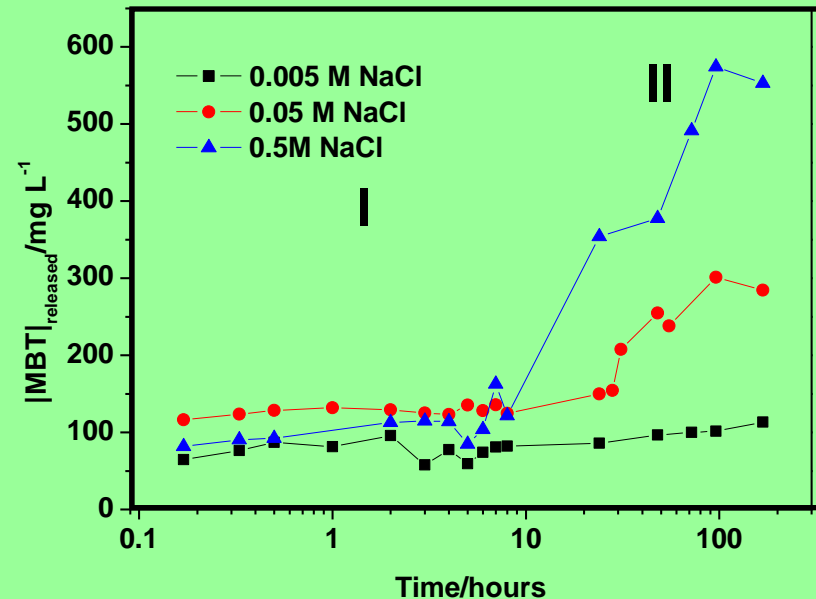


- The release of NO_3^- and MoO_4^{2-} anions is triggered by the presence of chloride anions

SH-MBT

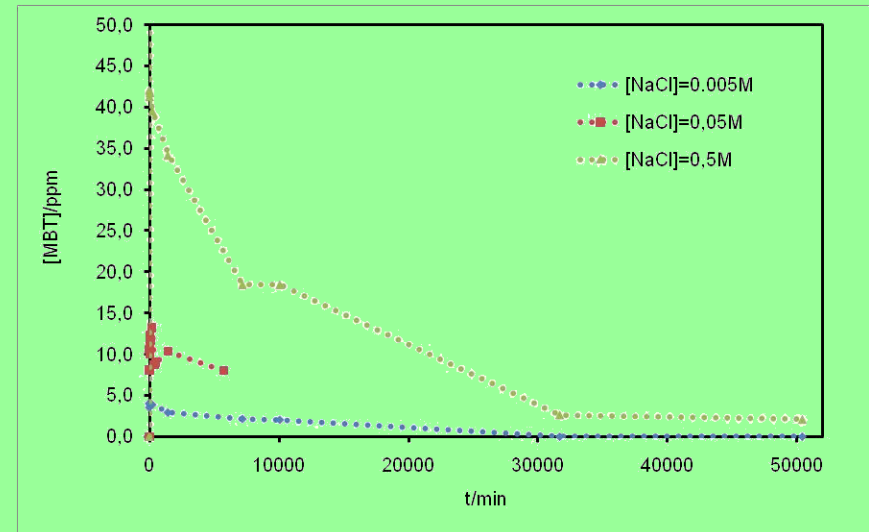
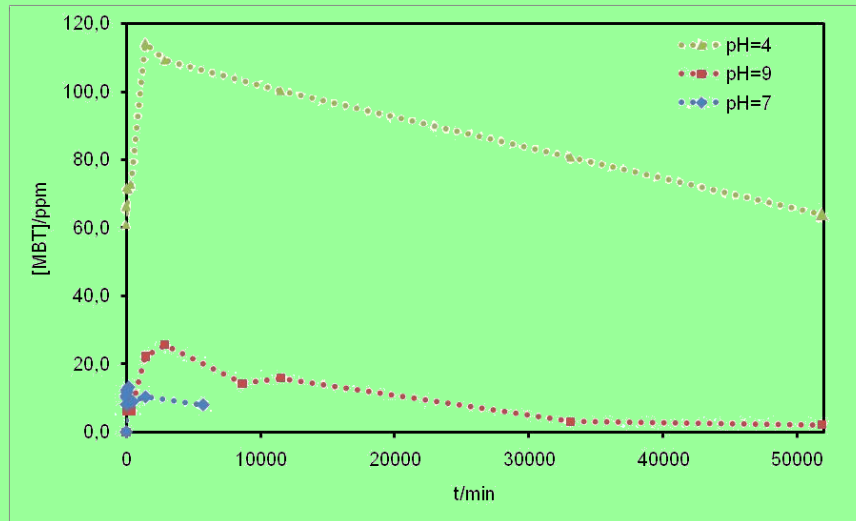


Zn(2)-Al-MBT



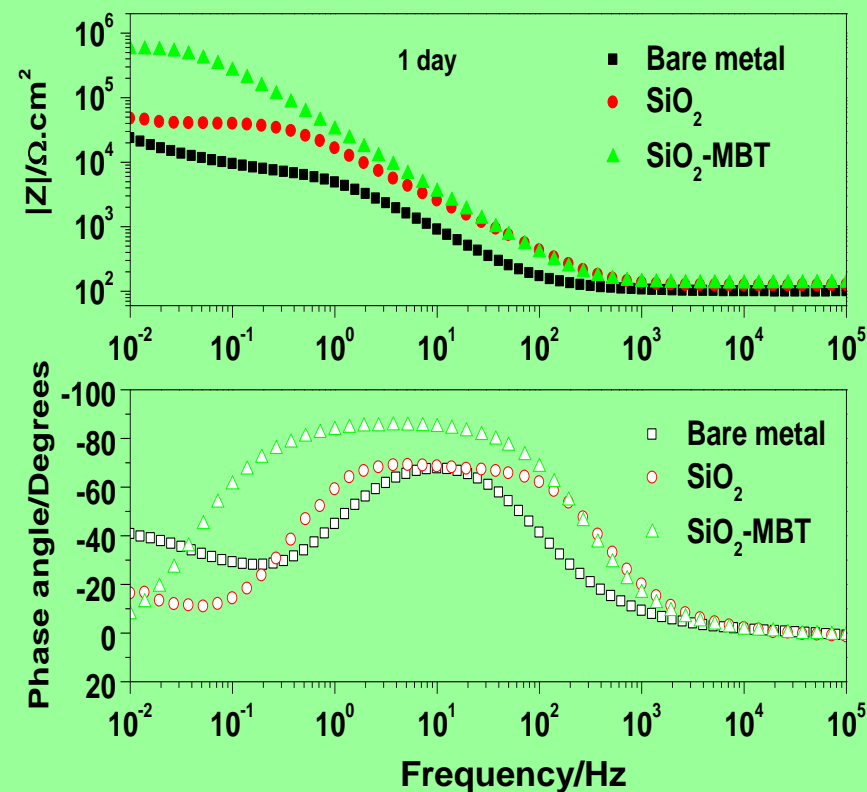
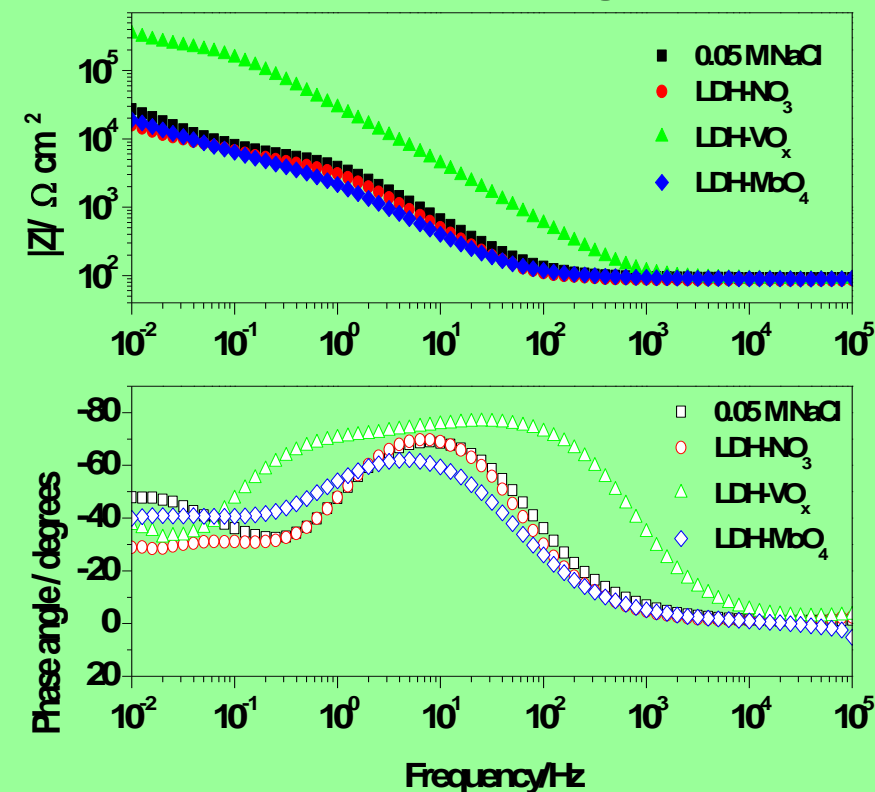
- Two release profiles are observed: short (1-2h) and long timescales (>100 h)
- Profile at short timescales is not sensitive to the concentration of Cl⁻

4. Release studies-SiO₂

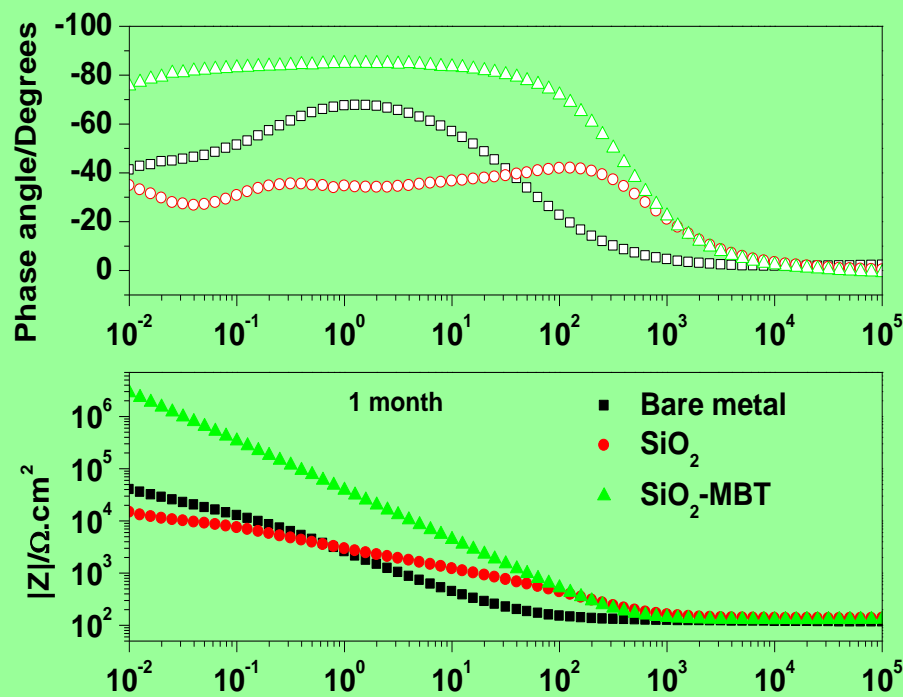


- MBT released preferentially in concentrated NaCl solutions and acidic conditions

5. Assessment of anticorrosion performance-EIS

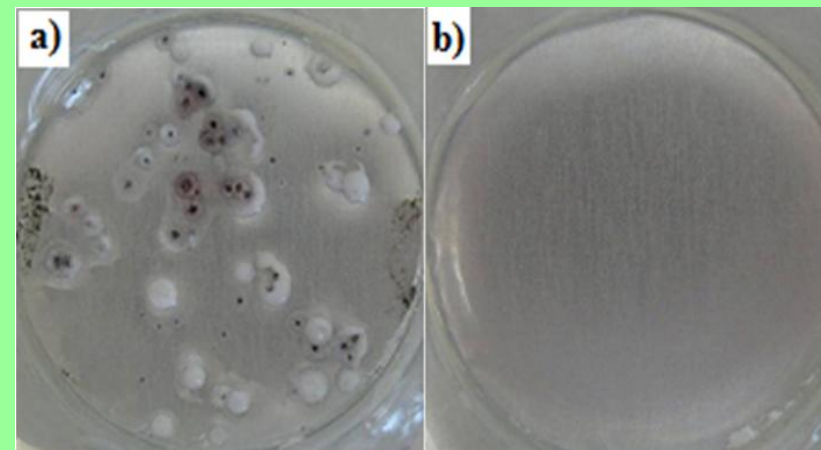


- EIS spectra for bare AA2024 after 1 day of immersion in 0.05 M NaCl



SiO_2

SiO_2 -MBT



1 month of immersion in 0.05 M NaCl

- The presence of inhibitor determines the (active) protection of the metal substrate

Concluding Remarks

- LDH nanocontainers and SiO_2 nanocapsules were synthesized and corrosion inhibitors successfully intercalated/encapsulated
- Release studies showed that the optimal conditions for the release of corrosion inhibitors are
 - LDHs (NaCl)
 - SiO_2 (pH and NaCl)
- The anticorrosion activity in solution depends on the strength of the inhibitor

Future perspectives

- Incorporation of corrosion inhibitor/nanocontainer 'pigments' in coating formulations from aeronautical, automotive and maritime industry
 - dispersion optimization via surface modification
 - assessment of the protection performance of the coatings
- Optimization of the nanocontainers for specific applications
 - action on the release response
 - screening of inhibitors, combination of inhibitors displaying synergistic effects

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